

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-100 are pending in this application.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for including reference numerals not mentioned in the description and for not including reference numerals mentioned in the description.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) for using the same reference numeral to designate different parts.

The specification is objected to for containing informalities.

Claim 31 is objected to for containing an informality.

Claims 1-6, 9, 20, 21, 31-36, 49, 50, 60-65, 78, 79, 89-95, 97, and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawler U.S. Patent No. 5,758,259 (hereinafter "Lawler").

Claims 7, 8, 10-13, 28, 37-42, 57, 66-71, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler in view of LaJoie et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218 (hereinafter "LaJoie").

Claims 14, 15, 19, 43, 44, 48, 72, 73, and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from

Amendments to the Drawings

Please approve the following amendments to FIG. 12 as indicated in red on the attached copies of the formal drawing for FIG. 12:

Remove reference numeral "171."

Remove reference numeral "172."

Remove reference numeral "173."

Remove reference numeral "180."

Remove reference numeral "182."

Please approve the following amendments to FIG. 20 as indicated in red on the attached copies of the formal drawing for FIG. 20:

Change reference numeral "250" to --255--.

Change reference numeral "251" to --256--.

Change reference numeral "252" to --257--.

Please approve the following amendments to FIG. 30 as indicated in red on the attached copies of the formal drawing for FIG. 30:

Change reference numeral "370" to --379--.

Change reference numeral "371" to --380--.

Replacement sheets 16, 25 and 34 are attached herewith for use as formal drawings.

Annotated sheets 16, 25 and 34 are attached herewith in Appendix A to show the changes to the original sheets 16, 25 and 34.

Lawler in view of Humpleman U.S. Patent No. 5,886,732
(hereinafter "Humpleman").

Claims 16-18, 25, 26, 30, 45-47, 54, 55, 59, 74-76, 83, 84, and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler.

Claims 23, 24, 29, 52, 53, 58, 81, 82, and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler in view of Humpleman.

Claims 96, 98, and 100 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim.

II. Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended the specification to include reference numerals shown in the drawings and to remove reference numerals not shown in the drawings. The specification has also been amended to update references to other patent applications and to correct typographical errors. The drawings have been amended to remove reference numerals not mentioned in the specification. The drawings have also been amended to correct instances where the same reference numeral has been used to designate multiple parts. Applicants have canceled claims 19-22, 48-51, 77-80, 95, 97, and 99 without prejudice. Applicants have amended claims 1, 31, 60, and 89-94 to more particularly define the claimed invention. Applicants have amended claims 31, 32, and 35 to

correct typographical errors. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments.

The Examiner's objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

III. Applicants' Reply to The Objections

A. The 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) Objections

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for including reference numerals not mentioned in the description and for not including reference numerals mentioned in the description.

The Examiner contends that reference numerals 161, 163, 164, 166, 171, 172, 173, 174, 178, 180, 182, 183, 184, 1002, 1012, 1013, 1021, 1023, 251, 252, 253, 254, 314, 315, 317, and 331 are shown in the drawings, but not mentioned in the description. Applicants have amended the specification to mention reference numerals 161, 163, 164, 166, 174, 178, 183, 184, 1002, 1012, 1013, 1021, 1023, 251, 252, 253, 254, 370, 371, 314, 315, 317, and 331. Applicants have amended FIG. 12 to remove reference numerals 171, 172, 173, 180, and 182. Applicants have amended FIG. 20 to change reference numeral 250 to 255, reference numeral 251 to 256, and reference numeral 252 to 257 to avoid the use of duplicate reference numerals. The specification has been amended to mention reference numerals 255, 256, and 257. Applicants

have amended FIG. 30 to change reference numeral 370 to 379 and reference numeral 371 to 380 to avoid the use of duplicate reference numerals. The specification has been amended to mention reference numerals 379 and 380.

The Examiner contends that the drawings do not include reference numeral 332, which is referred to in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to remove a reference to reference numeral 322.

In view of the amendments to the specification and drawings, these objections should be withdrawn.

B. The 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) Objection

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) for using the same reference numeral to designate different parts.

The Examiner contends that reference numerals 250, 251, and 252 has been used to designate multiple elements. Applicants have amended FIG. 20 to change reference numeral 250 to 255, reference numeral 251 to 256, and reference numeral 252 to 257. The specification has been amended to mention reference numerals 255, 256, and 257.

In view of the amendments to the drawings, this objection should be withdrawn.

C. The Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to for containing informalities.

The Examiner contends that on page 18, line 28, "televisions" should be amended to --television--. Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

The Examiner contends that on page 19, line 13, "301, 302" should be amended to --401, 402--. Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

The Examiner contends that on page 25, line 10, "FIG. 14" should be amended to --FIG. 13--. Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

The Examiner contends that references to other patent applications should be updated. Applicants have amended the specification to update references to other patent applications.

The Examiner contends that on page 37, line 1, the word "the" should be deleted before "channel 371." Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

The Examiner contends that on page 39, line 7, "volume option 332" should be amended to --volume option 331--. Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

The Examiner contends that on page 39, lines 26 and 27, "set language option 322" is not shown on FIG. 32. Applicants have amended the specification to remove the reference to reference numeral 322.

In view of the amendments to the specification, these objections should be withdrawn.

D. The Objection to Claim 31

Claim 31 is objected to for containing an informality. The Examiner contends that in claim 31, the term "one of" occurs twice in a row. Applicants have amended claim 31 to remove an instance of the term "one of." This objection should therefore be withdrawn.

IV. Applicants' Reply to the § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-6, 9, 20, 21, 31-36, 49, 50, 60-65, 78, 79, 89-95, 97, and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawler. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 20, 21, 49, 50, 78, 79, 95, 97, and 99 have been canceled without prejudice. The rejection of claims 20, 21, 49, 50, 78, 79, 95, 97, and 99 is moot and should therefore be withdrawn.

Applicants' invention, as defined by amended independent claims 1, 31, 60, and 89-94, is directed towards

systems and methods for using an interactive television program guide system in which a plurality of user television equipment devices are located in a household in a peer-to-peer arrangement. In independent claims 1, 31, 60, program guides are implemented on at least two devices. In independent claims 89-91, the devices include set-top boxes in which an application is implemented on each of the set-top boxes. In independent claims 92-94, a plurality of program guides are implemented on the plurality of devices.

Lawler discusses an interactive television system having viewer stations corresponding to individual homes that are in communication with a central control node. Each viewer station includes at least one video display set and one interactive station controller.

Applicants submit that Lawler fails to show or suggest a plurality of user television equipment devices located in a household in a peer-to-peer arrangement (1) on at least two of which program guides are implemented, as required by amended independent claims 1, 31, and 60, (2) in which the user television equipment devices include set-top boxes and an application is implemented on each set-top box, as required by amended independent claims 89-91, or (3) on which a plurality of interactive television program guides

are implemented, as required by amended independent claims 92-94.

In Lawler, viewing station 16 includes at least one video display set 18 and an interactive controller 20. However, the only device in viewer station 16 upon which a program guide or application may be implemented is interactive station controller 20. Video display set 18 is only configured to display images, and not to execute software (e.g., a program guide or application). Because Lawler only discusses having one interactive station controller 20 in each home, only one program guide or application may be implemented in each home. On the other hand, applicants' independent claims 1, 31, 60, and 89-94 each require that more than one program guide or application be implemented on more than one user television equipment device or set-top box in a household.

For at least this reason, independent claims 1, 31, 60, and 89-94 are allowable. Claims 2-6, 9, 32-36, 61-65, 95, 97, and 99, which depend from one of independent claims 1, 31, and 60, are also allowable because they depend from allowable claims. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

V. Applicants' Reply to the § 103 Rejections

Claims 7, 8, 10-13, 28, 37-42, 57, 66-71, and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler in view of LaJoie. Claims 7, 8, 10-13, 28, 37-42, 57, 66-71, and 86 depend from one of independent claims 1, 31, and 60, which have been shown to be allowable. Claims 7, 8, 10-13, 28, 37-42, 57, 66-71, and 86 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 14, 15, 19, 43, 44, 48, 72, 73, and 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler in view of Humpleman. Claims 19, 48, and 77 have been canceled without prejudice. The rejection of claims 19, 48, and 77 is moot and should therefore be withdrawn. Claims 14, 15, 43, 44, 72, and 73 depend from one of independent claims 1, 31, and 60, which have been shown to be allowable. Claims 14, 15, 43, 44, 72, and 73 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18, 25, 26, 30, 45-47, 54, 55, 59, 74-76, 83, 84, and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler. Claims 16-18, 25, 26, 30, 45-47, 54, 55, 59, 74-76, 83, 84, and 88 depend from one of independent claims 1, 31, and 60, which have been shown to be allowable.

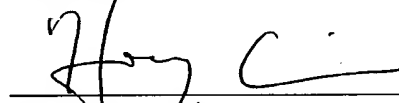
Claims 16-18, 25, 26, 30, 45-47, 54, 55, 59, 74-76, 83, 84, and 88 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 23, 24, 29, 52, 53, 58, 81, 82, and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Lawler in view of Humpleman. Claims 23, 24, 29, 52, 53, 58, 81, 82, and 87 depend from one of independent claims 1, 31, and 60, which have been shown to be allowable. Claims 23, 24, 29, 52, 53, 58, 81, 82, and 87 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-18, 23-47, 52-76, 81-94, 96, 98, and 100 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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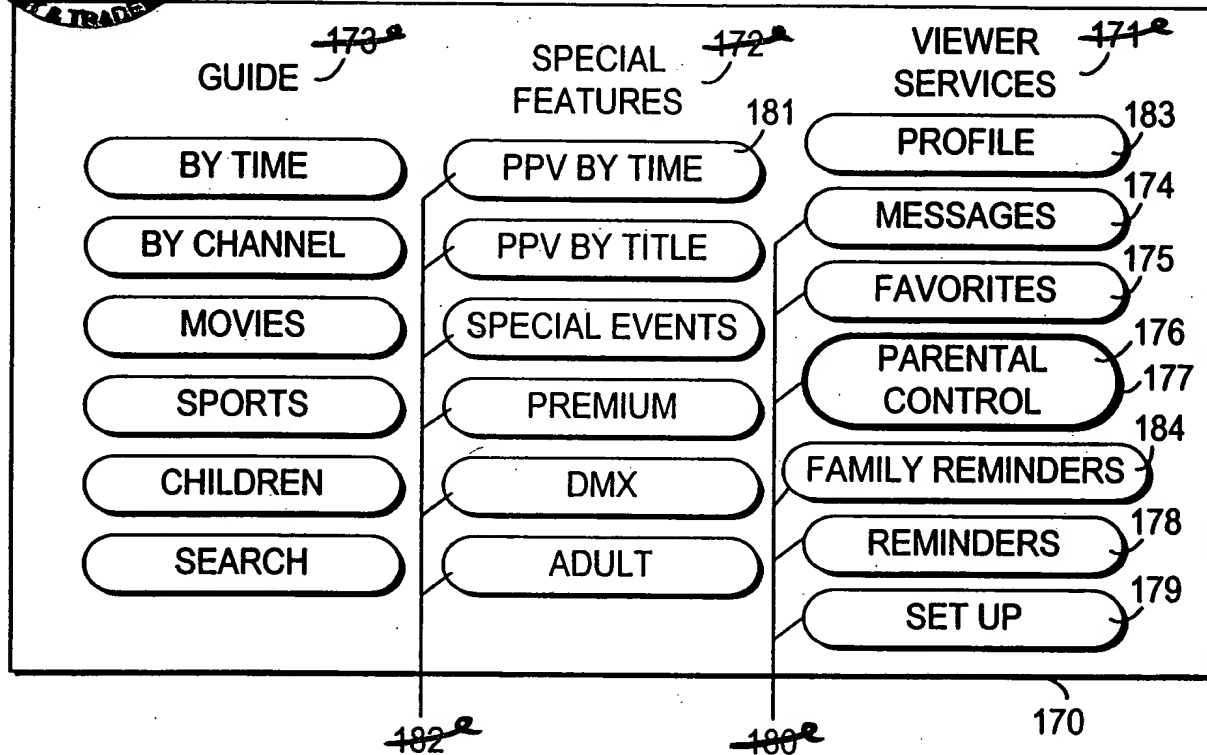


FIG. 12

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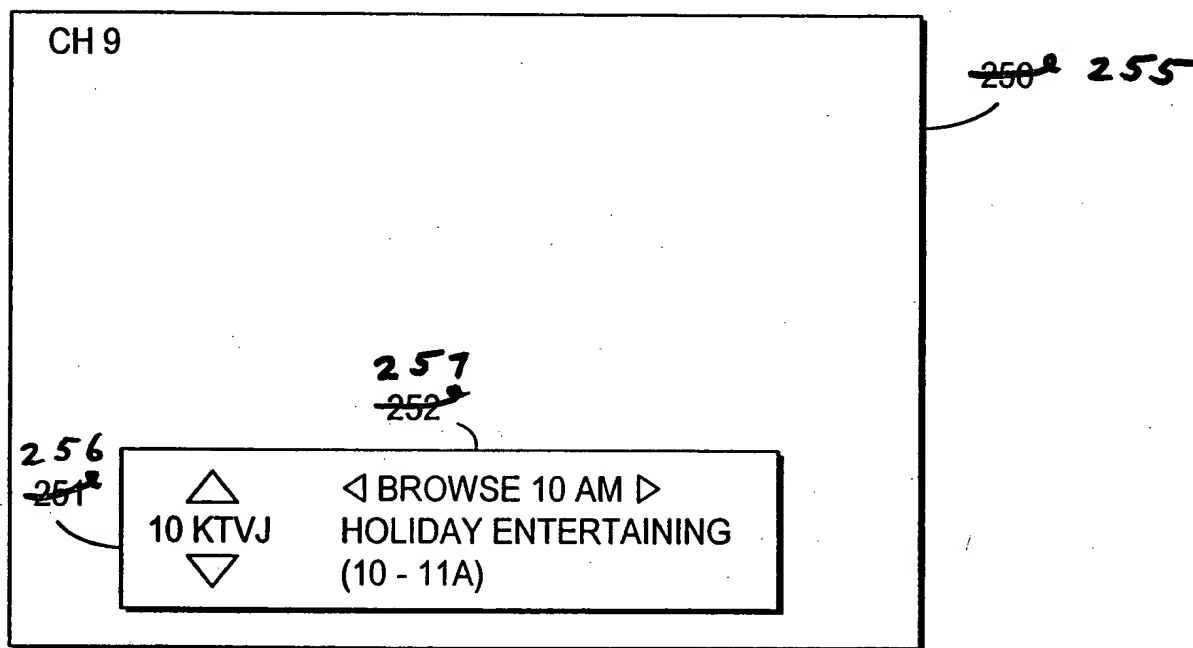


FIG. 20

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MESSAGES - SENDING

TO CHILDREN'S ROOM
GUEST ROOM

TEXT CLEAN UP YOUR
ROOM

HIT SELECT TO SEND

340
341
342
343

FIG. 29

MESSAGES - SENDING

TO CHILDREN'S ROOM
GUEST ROOM

TEXT - COME TO DINNER
- GO TO BED
- COME HOME

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370 379 380

FIG. 30